



# TOP OF THE HILL



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
15 MARCH 2012 VOL. XVII, NO. 3

---

## Why You Should Care about SOPA

---

By Benton Dodd

In this article I'm going to tell you about SOPA, or the Stop Online Piracy Act. I know that most of the readers of this paper don't know or care about SOPA, but I'm going explain why you should. At its core SOPA allows media companies to shut down websites which distribute pirated material. This sounds great, right? It only makes sense, that if a recording artist or movie-maker produces content, he should retain the profits of the product. I completely agree with this point. While making music or movies may be what they love to do, they still need a solid income, and piracy denies that income. If these people aren't paid for their work, they would have to return

to their day jobs. Can you imagine a world in which Adele or Steven Spielberg had to work as cashiers? People deserve their copyright, and piracy is bad; however, SOPA takes enforcement of the copyright too far.

SOPA allows companies and governments who claim copyright infringement to take down whole websites if they claim that the website isn't doing enough to protect the copyright. SOPA says that depending on the offense, a person who posts copyrighted material may pay fines for offenses as petty as singing a copyrighted song without crediting it, to going to jail for distributing copyrighted material. For example, hypothetically, if I make a YouTube video singing karaoke and do not credit the artist properly, and

their producer sees the video, he can claim copyright infringement and have the video taken down, no problem. But under SOPA I would be fined and YouTube could be taken down, yes the whole website! While today, under

current Internet law, only the offending portions of the site would be taken down, but under SOPA, online companies are liable for what every user posts, and as a result, they would have to have an extreme filtering system to stop all references to copyrighted material. One issue with this act is that the same websites which are most often used to illegally share content are also used extensively to promote free speech and share the events of everyday life. Someone may use YouTube to illegally share a movie, but another person may use YouTube to show recent government crackdowns in Syria. Under SOPA if many people were unhappy with the government, and the U.S. wanted to limit people's free speech to prevent spreading the word of injustices, they could take down websites such as Facebook, or YouTube, by claiming copyright infringement, even though their motives would be much more nefarious. Companies can take content down as well. If Activision, the makers of the beloved *Call of Duty* series saw that someone posted a gameplay video, they could take the site down if they chose. You may ask, "But how do

*continued on page 8*



# Johnny Tremain

## Battle, Brotherhood, and the Boston Tea Party--*Johnny Tremain* Has It All!

By Andrew Kaplan

This year's Junior School play was *Johnny Tremain*, starring Wes Richardson as Johnny Tremain and Lawrence Rogers as Rab. This great production takes place in the time before the Revolutionary War in the lives of Minutemen and the Sons of Liberty, including some scenes of battle. The patriots, Hayne Hamilton as John Hancock, Andrew Kaplan as Samuel Adams, Paul Revere played by Sam Rhodes, Nick Dreher as Mr. Lorne, and Drew Gordon as Joseph Warren lead the Boston Tea Party and rally Boston against the British.

The play's three showings were all successful, and the suspenseful plot kept all of the audience interested. From the moment Johnny burns his hand while working for Mr. Lapham



*The wonderful cast of Johnny Tremain!*

(Drew Gordon) to the moment when the cherished Rab dies, this production was quite a show. Amazing acting from all cast members such as Hunt Smith, Matt Remke, Christian Williams, Boaz Kelner, K.P. Frazier, Katherine Saul, and Ms. Catharine Hollifield, and the tremendous direction of Dr. Rick Seay and Mr. Nelson Berry ensured that the show was great and ran smoothly.

The light and sound crew members worked tirelessly on the set and the special effects of the show. Overall, this production of the patriotic people of Boston made for a great junior school play. Dr. Seay said, "Revolutionary Boston came alive vibrantly in this year's Junior School production of *Johnny Tremain*. All the cast and crew did an outstanding job from start to finish, and I truly had one of the best experiences ever with a Junior School play. The group was talented, hardworking, and dedicated to creating an incredibly professional and meaningful production. Everyone involved deserves tremendous praise for a job well done!"

Each showing brought a great

crowd who was enticed by the jungle gym-like set, including many platforms and elevations. The elaborate costumes and the versatility of the actors made a big impact in the understanding of the show. The highlight of the night occurred with Rab (Lawrence Rogers) dying at the conclusion of the play from battle wounds. Rogers' portrayal of Rab's likeable, energetic, and funny character allowed the crowd to bond with him, and his heartwarming portrayal of Rab's companionship and camaraderie with Johnny Tremain left the crowd moved. *Johnny Tremain* served as a fantastic show for the Junior School this year!



*Wes Richardson as  
Johnny Tremain*



*The friendship of Johnny Tremain  
and Rab (Lawrence Rogers)*



# Johnny Tremain



*After the death of Rab in Johnny Tremain*



*The Townspeople: (l to r) Boaz Kelner, Hunt Smith, Christian Williams, and Sam Rhodes*



*A drink to liberty!*



*Andrew Kaplan as Sam Adams*



*(l) Katherine Saul as Cilla and (r) Catharine Hollifield as Mrs. Lapham assist Johnny after his terrible accident.*



*(L) Drew Gordon as Merchant Lapham  
(Center) Hayne Hamilton as John Hancock*



*Drew Gordon as Joseph Warren*



*Matt Remke as the British Admiral*



*Nick Dreher as Mr. Lorne*



*K.P. Frazier and the firing squad.*



# ON THE HILL

## The 2012 Davidson County Spelling Bee

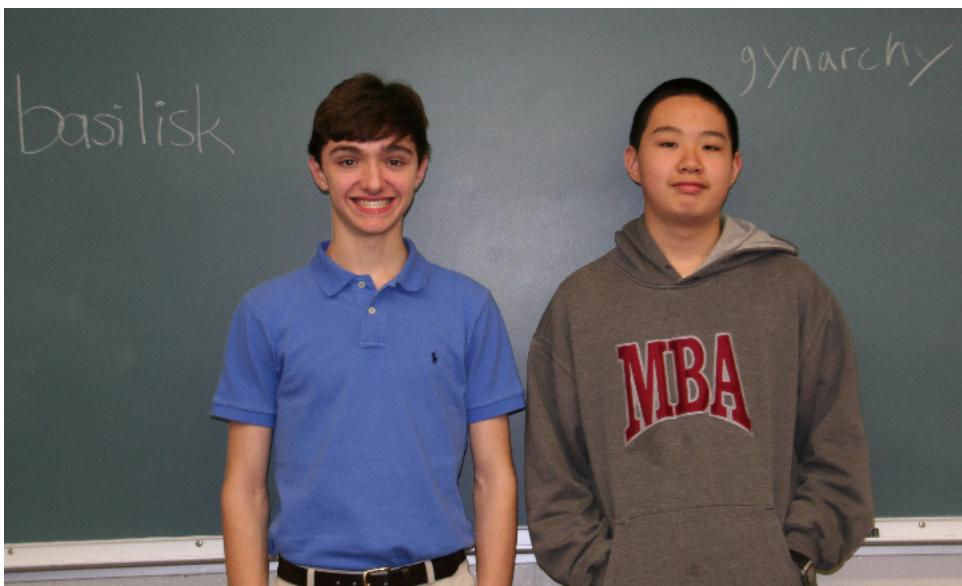
By Alvin Zhang

This year, MBA students, Hunter Hamilton and Alvin Zhang, who qualified by being the top two in the school bee, participated in the annual Spelling Bee held at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. The competition was intense, since only the top two out of the seventy-six contestants would progress to the State Spelling Bee, where they had a shot at the Nationals.

My placard number was 25, and Hunter was number 28. The round began that morning, and in the beginning round, the words were relatively easy (i.e. *grenade* and *question*), but as more and more contestants were eliminated and the rounds progressed, the words became harder.



*Hunter at the microphone and Alvin waiting his turn at the Bee.*



*Congratulations to Hunter Hamilton and Alvin Zhang, our 2012 Spelling Bee Winners!*

As the words became more difficult, the tension increased as well. After the 5th round had ended, I saw kids (including me and Hunter) desperately studying last year's words before the bathroom break ended and the next round began. Perhaps they knew that they had a shot at the state bee after all, since they had already made it this far. Looking at the words from the previous year's spelling bee helped a lot; most of the words in the spelling bee were exactly the same as the words from last year. This helped me spell words like *rivalless* and

*balalaika*. Around rounds 6 and 7, approximately 4/5 of the contestants had been eliminated, excluding Hunter and me. I saw that the bored, carefree kids in round 1 had been replaced by intense spellers, who desperately

scribbled words and recited prefixes and suffixes under their breath. The effectiveness of some kids' last minute studying was evident when a short kid next to me spelled *junta* (pronounced like "hoonta"); however, Hunter and I were eliminated when I misspelled *gynarchy*, and Hunter misspelled *basilisk*. (Hunter later regretted not reading Harry Potter.)

Hunter ended up placing 4th, and I placed 5th, a strong showing for MBA at the 2012 spelling bee. The winner of the spelling bee was Alyssa Reina Rentuza from Holy Rosary School, and her winning word was *dipsomania*. The runner-up (who also got to attend the state bee) was eighth-grader Grace Park, from Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Magnet, who missed the word *urimetrician*. I hope that next year's kids will do just as well as MBA did this time, if not better; after all, everyone can "bee" a winner!

# ON THE HILL

## MBA and Harpeth Hall Science Day

By Alec Whitson

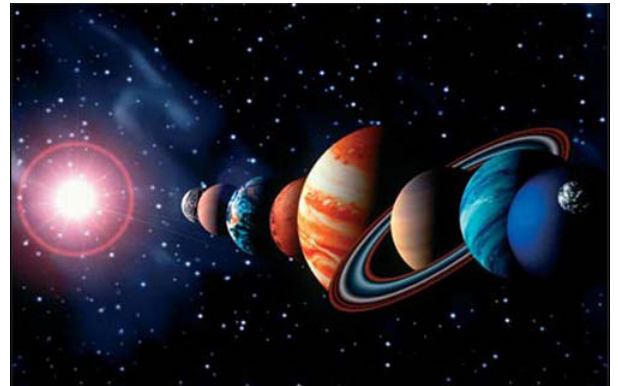
On Thursday, February 16, the gentlemen of the 8th grade class at MBA enjoyed a wonderful science-filled day with the ladies of Harpeth Hall. Beginning third period, the gentlemen went to the front of the Davis Building to wait for the ladies. When everyone was in his group, we walked into the auditorium to hear from our speakers. After a short introduction from Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Spiegl, the program began. The main speaker was Dr. Billy Teets. He spoke with us about the planets and the stars until about 11:30. During his lecture, he told us about different light spectrums in space. Everyone then enjoyed delicious pizza courtesy of Papa Johns. Boys and girls mingled in front of Davis while eating pizza and cookies. After lunch, everyone headed back into the auditorium to finish Dr. Billy's lecture. During the second half of his lecture, Dr. Billy handed out unusual glasses that allowed everyone to see the lights in a very cool way. We looked at the lights overhead and two different types of handheld lights. Then we walked out of the auditorium and towards the parking lot behind the tennis courts.

We began to do a walking tour of the solar system. The group changed the size of the sun to a dodgeball and then everyone walked

a specific number of steps to get to each of the planets. When we got to Earth it was the size of about one grain of turf. We continued to walk down the parking lot until we reached the end of our solar system at the end of the parking lot. Then everyone said goodbye to our speakers and to the ladies of Harpeth Hall.

After cleanup we returned to our regular schedule, finishing 7th and 8th period. Speaking for all the boys in my grade, we would like to thank Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Spiegl, Mr. Bullington, Mr. Russ, and Mr. McMurray for all their help with science day. We would also like to thank the teachers at Harpeth Hall for allowing us to have this awesome opportunity.

The day was a fun way to mix with the ladies of Harpeth Hall



while still in a school environment. Although it may not have been the best mixer we have ever had, I still thought it was fun. According to Taylor Asher, "It was a fun time, and from my perspective everyone was having good time." Another classmate, Peter Briggs, said this, "I heard a lot about the solar system that I had never known before." The general consensus was that science day was a good time.

### GET READY TO PERFORM!

#### April is National Poetry Month and Time for the Annual Junior School Poetry Competition

Entry level performance competitions begin in each English class in April with winners from each class moving on to the main competition in Massey Commons on Tuesday, April 17th. The seventh-grade winner will face the eighth-grade winner on Wednesday, May 2nd.

Prizes are awarded to each grade level winner. Contact your English teacher or Mrs. Roberts for more information.



# ON THE HILL

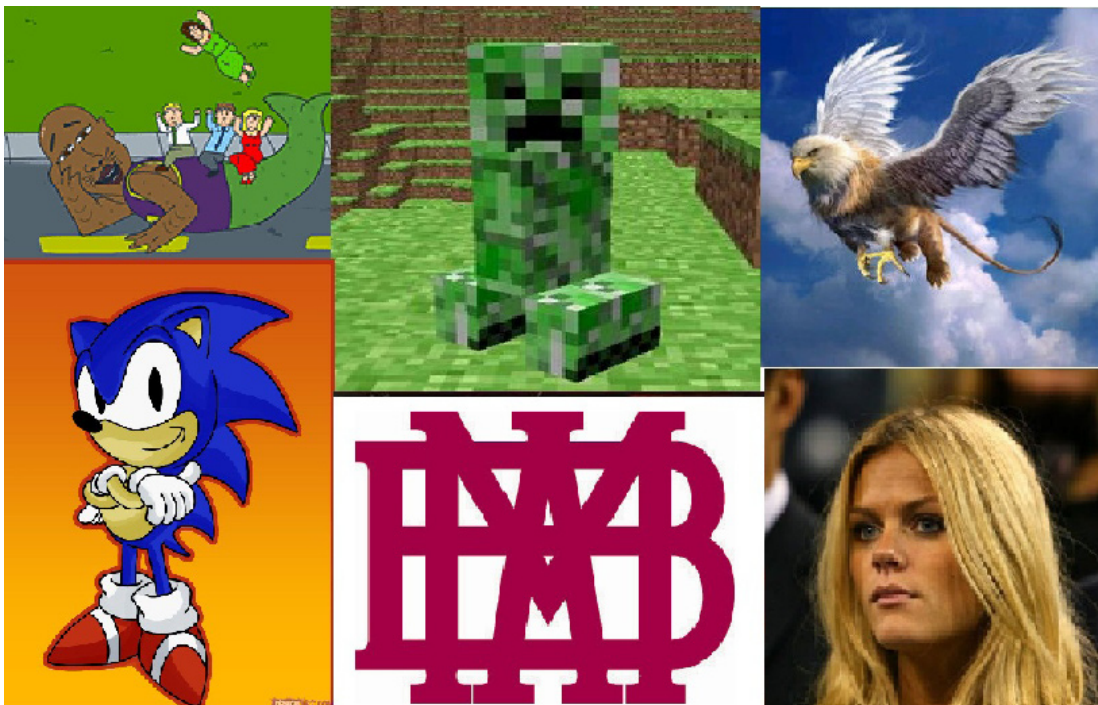
## And the new library pet is.....

By Reilly Dodd

Hello, my fellow gentleman. About a month ago our last resident library fish died (may he swim in piece), and with the much needed help of Mr. Quinn, we had decided to make a survey, which I sent out to everyone at MBA in order to get the most answers submitted. Before I tell you what our new pet will be, I just want to list a few of my favorite responses, not in any particular order and in exact wording.

1. "A Murshaq ( half mermaid, half Shaquille O'Neal, and one hundred percent pretty cool)"
2. "A griffon like they have in Hogwarts, come on we aren't that different"
3. "A rock named Steve"
4. "A Quantum physics book"
5. "Narwhals (swimming in the ocean causing a commotion 'cuz they are so awesome)"
6. "A bearded dragon "
7. "A baby elephant"
8. "A creeper from Minecraft"
9. "A capybara (The world's most epic rodent)"
10. And finally..... "A Brooklyn Decker" (No joke, some guy put that)

Now that you know all the awesome answers, here are the final results. With an astounding lead of a two thirds majority, the winner is, THE HEDGEHOG! The name is still undecided. It's a power struggle between Henry the hedgehog and Sonic the hedgehog. On behalf of *Top of the Hill* and the librarians, I would just like to say thank you to the 268 people who took the survey. Goodbye, and don't forget to thank the librarians for all their hard work.



# ON THE HILL

*Congratulations on a Job Well Done!*



## Junior Honor Society Inductees

Grey Adelman  
Charlie Bailey  
Daniel Bishop  
Cole Campbell  
Cole Cross  
Tony Ding  
Will Eskew  
Mark Floyd  
David Gaw

Drew Gordon  
Connor Gray  
Grant Green  
William Hall  
Hunter Hamilton  
Brinton Hoover  
Matt Hopp  
Bronson Ingram  
Will Johnson

John Kelly  
George Lazenby  
Jack Litchfield  
Carter Lovvorn  
J.B. Lund  
Rishi Mallipeddi  
Chapman Malone  
Chase Meluch  
Ethan Mowery  
Adam Young

Sam Rhodes  
Wes Richardson  
Richie Scherrer  
Jay Shackelford  
Jackson Siktberg  
Sam Smith  
Jesse Turner  
Christian Williams  
Jackson Wooten  
Alvin Zhang



# FEATURES

*continued from page 1*

## SOPA

STOP ONLINE PIRACY ACT

they actually take down the sites if they aren't technically under their jurisdiction?" This question is valid, but the government would have the power to force internet providers to remove the IP address for certain websites making them active but unavailable to access. It also gives them the power to cut off the funding to websites at their will which would essentially crush the website even though they couldn't take it down. Back to my point, I know the aforementioned scenarios sound ridiculous now, but when making acts and laws we have to consider the worst possible outcome. Giving power to one person now doesn't mean that the power will be used the same way by a different person in 10 years.

In conclusion, there is an interesting balance to consider. If a person produces content, it should be his property, and it is stealing to illegally download that property, so there should be measures taken to protect the integrity of digital content. However, giving so much power to big companies and governments isn't wise because if you trust one man with a power, it doesn't mean the same type of power should be trusted to people in leadership tomorrow. On the record, I don't support SOPA in this current form, but to be clear, if an amended version in which only parts of a website may be removed is put in

place, I would definitely support it.

As a wrap up for people who just browsed the article, I'm going to explain how SOPA could affect the Junior School in particular. Taking an example from the freshman speech competition, if I post a video on YouTube containing copyrighted material and someone found it, YouTube could be taken down. Even if I do credit the creators of the material, they could still claim I didn't have their permission to post it. Then if they wanted to, they could also shut down Google because Google owns YouTube. Then could also shut down sites which posted Ads on YouTube and Google! So if a Facebook ad was on Google, and Google owns Facebook, then

Facebook could be forcibly shut down under SOPA. Without sites like YouTube, Facebook, or Google, the world would be a boring place (although MBA might be handing out fewer demerits each year). As much as some would hate to admit it, in MBA culture, technology is very important, and in particular sites like Facebook and YouTube are used daily by many students. It could be a huge detriment to daily life of the students if SOPA passes. I hope this article has informed you to the potential consequences of SOPA, and you will be more knowledgeable when discussing it.

### CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS: WIN MONEY!

#### Jesse Hill Ford Short Story Contest

Who: 7th and 8th graders

What: Short story composed during the current school year.

Length: 3-8 pages, double-spaced

Prize: The best short story wins \$150!

Due: Wed., April 11th

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest

##### Categories: Poetry and Fiction

Prizes in both categories:	1st	\$50
	2nd	\$35
	3rd	\$10

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.  
Junior School Entries Due by Wed., April 11th.



# FEATURES

## Assembly Speaker, Blake McMeans, Brings Strong Message about Drunk Driving

By Hamilton Garber

A few weeks ago, Blake McMeans, a victim of a drunk-driving accident, came to talk to the MBA students. Blake was an excellent tennis player and probably would have gone pro if it weren't for his tragic accident. Blake said he drank alcohol not only to be cool but also out of sadness. When Blake was coming home one night after drinking, he crashed into a tree and flipped over; now he is on a speaking campaign against driving under the influence of alcohol. After many years of physical therapy and training, he is now able to get out of his wheelchair and walk. Blake's story is a very tragic one, but he uses it as a motivation against drunk driving. Blake was very inspiring and touching for me, and his story makes me never want to get behind the wheel of a car after drinking.

Statistics show that every 39 minutes, someone dies from a drunk driving accident. Most drunk driving fatalities occur with people 18-24 years old (even though you must be 21 to drink alcohol). Several days ago, there was a drunk driving accident where an innocent person was driving a truck for her work. A drunk driver hit and killed her, but she survived the crash. Due to the relaxing effect of alcohol and the change in adrenaline, there is proof that the driver under the influence

has more of a chance to survive. The guilt of a fatal crash, however, is unmatched. Drunk driving may be a thrill for a couple of minutes, but the result can last a lifetime. A personal friend of mine was in

college. He was out drinking, and he decided to drive home by himself. The boy ended up wrapping himself around a tree, causing severe damage to his head. This boy was just a normal college student, nearing his degree, but now he can barely remember facts needed in his college career. One night for him changed his life forever.

Drinking under age is not a good idea, even if you are not going to get behind the wheel. There are proven facts that drinking weakens ability to learn and focus. Each year, about 5,000 children under the age of 25 die from drinking and other drinking related accidents. Two out of every 5 eighth graders in the U.S. say that they have consumed alcohol at some point. This fact is shocking to me and scary when I think about it. Alcohol does not only affect



*Blake McMeans*

vision, but also cerebral functions. If too much alcohol is consumed at one point, it affects your liver and is proven to stunt growth and maturation.

Consuming alcohol underage is harmful to your body, even if one is not driving a car. Luckily, drunk driving fatalities are becoming less and less common. Since 1991, the number of driving under the influence has dropped 44% per 100,000 people. The state of Tennessee has our police force cracking down on drunk driving. New commercials have come out telling of how policemen are always watching and the penalty is rather high. Drinking may seem like a cool thing to do at the time, but don't put your life on the line. Stay safe, and don't drive under the influence.

# FEATURES

## Titanic the 2nd : Italian Cruise Ship Disaster

By Tony Huang

The *Costa Concordia* was considered to have been, “born bad and ended up worse,” reported by an Italian newspaper. It was the largest Italian cruise ship ever constructed and cost \$570 million.

This was the layout of the ship:

Deck 1 Olanda (the Netherlands)  
 Deck 2 Svezia (Sweden)  
 Deck 3 Belgio (Belgium)  
 Deck 4 Grecia (Greece)  
 Deck 5 Italia (Italy)  
 Deck 6 Gran Bretagna (Britain)  
 Deck 7 Irlanda (Ireland)  
 Deck 8 Portogallo (Portugal)  
 Deck 9 Francia (France)  
 Deck 10 Germania (Germany)  
 Deck 11 Spagna (Spain)  
 Deck 12 Austria  
 Deck 13 (sometimes called 14)  
 Polonia (Poland)

At the christening ceremony of the *Costa Concordia* on July 2006, the ceremonial champagne bottle, dropped by model Eva Herzigova, bounced off the side of the ship and did not break, which evoked gasps of despair. Many people, at seeing the failed ceremony, felt the ship was doomed. In 2008, the ship was damaged. Then, on Friday the 13th of 2012, the ship suffered its worst stroke of luck.

On this fateful day, the passengers of the *Costa Concordia* were having a good time when suddenly the ship rocked to one side. A jarring noise was heard, and the lights started flickering. Then, confusion and terror reigned. The ship had run



*The ill-fated Costa Concordia*

(AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

onto a rock in the Tyrrhenian Sea and opened a hole at least 160 feet wide while it was sailing past the town of Giglio. The rock that the boat had run on was not on the map. Captain Francesco Schettino had changed the original course of the ship. He had fatally decided to navigate the ship by his own instinct. The boat started tilting, but no orders to evacuate were given until an hour later. The loudspeakers said that it was a mere “electrical fault,” and “the tacticians were working on it.” When the ship crashed, it was already 2.5 miles off course. By the time that the order was given to evacuate, panic was already widespread on the ship, and people were starting to jump off. There were few survivors among the people who jumped off. Dishes crashed to the floor, and it was an “every man for himself” situation. Shopkeepers tried to help, but since none of them were trained to help people off the ship, their efforts failed.

Captain Francesco Schettino, who was supposed to help people get off the boat safely, escaped the sinking boat himself without helping anybody. He is now charged with manslaughter and abandoning ship and will possibly be sentenced to 12 years in prison. Audio recordings show that

Captain Francesco had not listened to the coast guard captain Gregorio De Falco who had screamed, “Vada A Borda, Cazzo!” (Get on board, deck!), wanted him to stay. Francesco’s excuse was that there was no point of going back into the ship since it was dark.

Lawyers for the survivors of the *Costa Concordia* have asked for drug tests on Francesco Schettino. There has been no evidence that he had used cocaine on the trip, but there was a sample of cocaine on some hair in an envelope on the ship.

Twenty-five people have died in this cruise wreck, and more are expected to follow. There are also seven people still missing, still presumed dead. The search for victims was delayed to remove some oil from the coast. There were 500,000 gallons of oil remaining on the Giglio coast. One of the victims of the wreck is 5-year old Dayana Arlotti, who was on a dream vacation with her father, who is one of the missing. One woman, Rosalyn Rincon, was trapped in a magic Houdini-like box when the ship started to sink. The ship may take around ten months to haul the ship out of the port. The *Costa Concordia* was a true disaster, and one that humans should remember forever.



# The Story Continues . . .

## Chapter III: Enigmas and Explanations

Dear Clyde,

I think it's best for me to come clean with you, seeing as everyone seems to have gathered his or her own opinions. I killed Clarice Longwood. It's the only conclusion I've been able to sanely come to. After all, no one but me held a greater grudge against her; no one hated her more than I. Even as I write this sentiment, memories of that wonderful deed flash back into my head. The police obviously think they have enough evidence to take me away; that dust on my sweatshirt had to have been from the new concrete walls in the new building under construction; the sickly maroon on my shoes must have been blood; everyone knew I hated Clarice's guts.

I can still remember my words...coaxing her...making her long to enter the room...simply walking to her death: "Come on, Clarice! There's someone in here who wants to see you." So sad how such a bright girl can immediately space out and think that the captain of the football team would be waiting inside with puckered lips...it's what every girl would think... The crowbar was in my hand, and she walked in, happy and as jovial as she ever was, and I mean this quite literally because it really was as happy as she ever would be. As I raised the crowbar behind her the first time, there was a pang of an "Oh, no! You don't have to do this!" but it was too late. This was my chance to rid the world of such a foul creature, a piece of slime so despicable that it had no reason to walk this earth! I swung with a devilish power, aiming right for the back of her head. Her skull cracked...oh, how I relish that sound...and even then, I knew it was over for her, but I kept on hacking! Blood shot and spewed everywhere, pooling up around her and flying all over the walls; there was a low moaning as she futilely gasped for air and life, but I let the damned creature suffer. Let the devil take her as she was in heart, full of malice and hostility!

I hid the crowbar in the rafters. No one would find it there, and if they did, it would be disregarded; workmen will often leave their tools in the rafters. But, then of course, the police and special agents did find the crowbar, and my escape became less and less easy. I decided to tell you all of this because I knew you would understand, having been in such situations before. I would love to flee with you, but being a minor this is impossible. Please pray for my safe delivery.

And finally, to keep you from being utterly confused about Clarice, perhaps this will enlighten you about why I did it, for even if I escape in this mortal world, I know for certain I will forever rot in hell with Clarice. I killed Clarice because I was meant to, regardless of the consequences; Lord Tennyson was brilliant in his "The Charge of the Light Brigade": 'Forward, the Light Brigade!'

Was there a man dismay'd?  
Not tho' the soldiers knew  
Some one had blunder'd:  
Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

Satanically, *Taylor Crest*

# FEATURES

## The “Rambo Lambo”

By Holland Lund

Lamborghini had a really ambitious goal. Their goal was to make a truck tough enough for the military. This Lamborghini was later known as the “Rambo Lambo.” This truck had the same engine as the Lamborghini Countach, the all-mighty V12. With a body style of a 4 door pickup, this truck could easily be a civilian and military model. The “Rambo Lambo” was equipped with a 5 speed manual transmission for some kind of entertainment on the road. These Lamborghinis were produced in the 1930’s and are scarce now because there were only 328 ever produced. Granted that one may find a look alike, a kit car would be an exception. To own and be able to pay for one of these Lambos would be a feat in and of itself. With a seventy-six gallon fuel tank, it would cost upwards



*A dream machine? The “Rambo Lambo”*

of 288 dollars to fill the tank one time! When the army decided not to use the Lamborghini and use the Hummer instead, the makers at Lamborghini had to think fast. They decided to make a luxury model for civilians with a leather trim interior. These Lambos are few and far between these days because they are so hard to pay for in this economy. These trucks were made with a good purpose but did not have a back-up plan. Maybe sometime soon the builders at Lamborghini will make something affordable and with a good presentation. There is

one down side to having an engine that produces 400+ horsepower and a top speed of 145 miles an hour. This truck only gets 8 miles to the gallon only because it is a V8. Most drivers who drive daily say they would not be interested in

having one because of its enormous fuel tank and low gas mileage. Another down side is that it has a listing price of anywhere from 90,000 to 165,000 dollars. I would like to have one if I made the money to pay for it. In some people’s views it is just a gas-guzzling money sucker. But in others’ minds, it is a dream of Lamborghini’s that did not come true. If it is all the same to everyone, I think that Lamborghini should stick to making sport cars.

*April 5, 2012*

*is*

*MBA’s 2012*

*Grandparents’ Day!*





# ENTERTAINMENT



## Oscars Recap

By Peter Taylor

Though there are many different movie awards shows such as the MTV Movie Awards and the Golden Globes, the one that everyone watches is the Oscars. For 84 years, the Oscars, more formally known as The Academy Awards, have been awarded to movies and performers based on factors such as direction, production, editing, writing, music, special effects, as well as performance quality for the actors and actress. This list makes it the most prestigious award a movie can receive, and it can both increase ticket sales and cement the film or actor as one of “the greats,” ensuring them a place in movie history.

Throughout the years, Oscars have been awarded to some really great movies and performers. Even though they are not always given to whom you expect and there are often many surprises, they are always given to quality movies, such as *The King’s Speech*. Oscars are not given to silly movies such as *Tower Heist*, which, while fun to watch, is definitely not deserving of an award as prestigious as an Oscar.

Before the awards show even began, there was the Red Carpet preshow. The Oscars are probably watched more for this event than the actual awards, especially by women, as they are more excited to see all their favorite actors’ and actresses’ suits and dresses. While I do not have an opinion myself, [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com) has stated that Milla Jovovich, Michelle Williams, and Jennifer Lopez were the best dressed, among others. The only other thing worth noting about the preshow was the gag pulled by actor Sacha Baron Cohen, who played the train station cop in *Hugo* and is starring in the movie *The Dictator* as Admiral General Aladeen. Cohen, dressed as his character Aladeen, was walking down the Red Carpet with a fake burial urn with North Korean leader Kim Jong II’s remains, but he “accidentally” fumbled the urn and spilled the fake ashes on Ryan Seacrest. I thought it was hilarious, but I’m not so sure what Ryan Seacrest thought, because it was unknown if he was in on the joke. The video went viral on the Internet and should be a huge marketing success, despite Cohen not being allowed to do anything else in the Kodak Theatre where the awards were presented.

The show was hosted by Billy Crystal of *When Harry Met Sally* fame. This was Crystal’s 9th time hosting the show. He was a decent host, but nothing really stood out as really funny or really cool for me.

Now, on to the awards themselves; Both *Hugo*, based on the best selling book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, and the silent film *The Artist* both won five Oscars. *Hugo* won Best Art Design, cinematography, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and perhaps a bit of a surprise in Visual Effects. *The Artist* won Best Picture, Best Director for Michel Hazanavicius, Best Actor for Jean Dujardin, Best Costume Design, and Best Original Score. These were both fairly surprising to me, as I expected *Moneyball* to win Best Picture, but both of these movies have achieved outstanding reviews despite not doing very well at the box office. Hopefully these awards will bring them a bit more attention.

Other important wins include *A Separation* (Best Foreign Film), *Rango* (Best Animated Feature, which I am very happy about, since I loved the whole animal take on westerns), Meryl Streep (Best Actress in *The Iron Lady*) Christopher Plummer (Best Supporting Actor in *The Beginners*), and Octavia Spencer (Best Supporting Actress in *The Help*). Though it may seem like Meryl Streep wins all the time, this is only her third win out of seventeen nominations, while the 82-year-old Christopher Plummer won for the first time in his entire career.

Overall it was an enjoyable Oscar evening, and nothing felt too overdone or underdone. I’m going to have a busy weekend if I’m going to be watching all these movies!

# ENTERTAINMENT

## The Flaming Pauper Rides Again in *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance*

By Reilly Dodd

Before you skip over this article, just hear me out. This was originally going to be a bash since this movie from the start served no purpose other than to pull Nicholas Cage out of bankruptcy. After watching the movie, I was actually quite entertained when I stepped out of the movie theater. With this in mind, let's begin.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the series, it revolves around a daredevil named Johnny Blaze, who sold his soul to the devil in order to save his life from cancer. This being a deal with the devil, he was tricked and his father died of an unrelated catastrophe. Johnny, knee deep in sorrow, has to leave his love because the devil for some undisclosed reason wants him to leave. Flash-forward an estimated 13 years, and Johnny is still a daredevil, until Satan decides to reclaim Johnny's debt and tells him to bring his son and his anarchist



arch-angels back to hell. Johnny, being only a relatively weak guy is then possessed by a demon nicknamed the Ghost Rider, whose goal in afterlife is to punish anyone who has sinned and later burns the devil's son's stolen souls. The devil offers to take the curse, but Johnny keeps it so the devil can't use it. Flash-forward again and Johnny is somewhere near Turkey trying to contain the Ghost Rider, but a very tipsy and religious gunman who needs him to take this boy whom the devil wants to possess and use to conquer Earth, and ultimately Heaven through him. The gunman says he can lift Johnny's curse if he helps. With this in mind, they set out to find him, but the gunmen forgets to mention that an army of hit men armed with javelins are out for the kid too. Good luck.

The movie itself was good. The thing that made this movie stand out was the dynamic camera work and CGI, not to mention the spectacular 3D. These played crucial elements to the atmosphere that made the movie stand above the

others I've seen. On the other hand, while some scenes were played beautifully, some were overacted and seemed comical when the point was to be serious. Also, this movie is clearly an action movie but it tried to be too many other things. It tried to be a comedy at points,

while at others it was a suspense movie, then the next scene it was action, and then to an emotional movie. The plot was good, but the director clearly didn't have a precise aim when it came to focusing the movie. This doesn't take away that much of the experience, but I left slightly annoyed at the end. For a broke man, Nicholas Cage played his role very well and so did the other actors.

At the end of the movie, I was impressed. This movie was spectacularly both visually and written. It may not be perfect and I doubt this movie will take home an Oscar, but it was still one of the better movies of our generation, and certainly will stick in my head. Overall, I give this movie an 8/10 for the spectacular CGI, a great plot, and small consistencies.

The one thing is that this movie is 15 bucks per person because it's only available in 3D. I recommend buying it later at a cheaper rate but definitely pick this one up.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Chronicle Review

By Benton Dodd

*Chronicle* is a 2012 science fiction film directed by Josh Trank and starring Dane DeHaan, Michael B. Jordan, and Alex Russell. The film tells the story of three high schoolers, Steve (Jordan), Andrew (DeHaan), and Matt (Russell). Andrew is a stereotypical nerd whose life closely follows that of Ellen, from the English book, *Ellen Foster*. His father is an alcoholic and his mom is on her deathbed. His dad has beaten him constantly ever since losing his job as a firefighter and blames him for what has happened to both himself and his wife. Andrew then begins to record everything that happens to him in life. Although it isn't said, I thought he was using the camera as a barrier from real life interactions. His cousin Matt then invites him to a party to help him meet friends. Andrew is soon kicked out for filming a girl dancing whose boyfriend caught him recording her. On the outside Andrew is confronted by Steve, the popular high school quarterback, who wants him to come with him to record something. Steve leads Andrew to a cave where Matt is waiting. They all go inside and encounter a glowing crystal structure which emits energy which interferes with the camera. After waking up the next day they all discover that they have telekinesis, or the ability to control things with their minds. The rest of the movie recounts the downfall and internal



conflict of the boys resulting from their new powers. They try to limit the use of their powers in anger at first, but Andrew has been waiting for years to settle his old grudges and his opportunity has come. All of this leads to the inevitable battle scene taking place in downtown Seattle.

I loved the choices of the actors to fill the roles, but some of the performances were lacking. DeHaan was fantastic as Andrew and I loved how his internal conflict was portrayed. I also loved his evolution from loser to "Apex Predator." I didn't like Russell and Jordan's performances since Matt and Steve because most of their lines were yelling in excitement like "Wow this is totally insane," or "Andrew, come back we can fix this!" The effects were overall a strong point in the movie, except for one instance at a serious moment when Matt flies out a window after arguing with Andrew but the animation for his exit was really poorly done. Other moments like the flying and object throwing effects were awesome. The story was alright, but it didn't have a true direction. The beginning of the movie was actually kind of funny, but then it lost the humor and became serious with a very dark conclusion, only to have a "happily ever after scene" in Tibet at the end. Another problem I had was that the movie goes on for

about an hour telling what happened to the teens after being exposed to the orb, but it never actually explains what it was or why it was there. The film ends with Matt saying he will find out what it is and that he will try to be better in life. There also is never closure on what happens to the friends and family of the boys. Matt's girlfriend is left on top of a building by herself after the battle and Matt flies away. What happens to her? Does she die of starvation up there? Andrew's dad is saved from the battle, but what happens to him after? The abruptness of the film's end made me confused when the credits rolled because I thought that it could have gone on another hour.

In conclusion, *Chronicle* was a good movie with a lot of potential to be great, but the lack of direction and the obvious plot holes, which were certainly left unanswered to allow for a sequel, held it back from being one of my favorite movies. It is still a good movie but not great. However, that is what the producers were shooting for: an adrenaline-packed thriller, which will keep you watching to the end. In that respect, *Chronicle* doesn't fail. 7.5/10

Family Note- This film gets a tentative PG-13 Rating because the content was implied. Personally I had no problem with this movie but some of the content, like Andrew's father's physical and verbal abuse of Andrew, perhaps the overkill at the end of the movie, and what happens at some of the parties, makes this film not bad for families, but parents should think twice about letting children under 12 watch it.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## 54th Grammy Awards

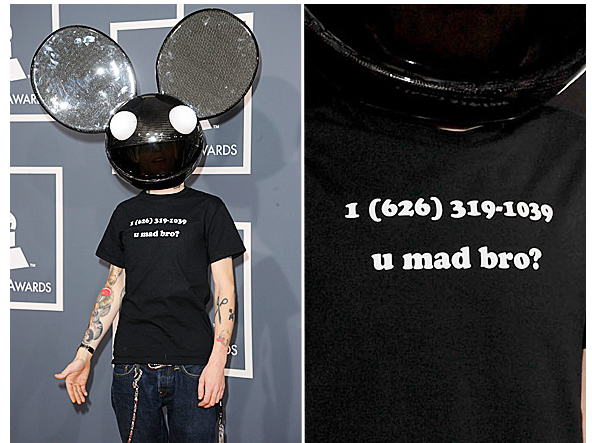
By Werner Bradshaw

The 54th annual Grammy Awards took place on Sunday, February 12 to honor successful musicians in 2011. The awards were hosted by LL Cool J. and held in the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. As always, the best musical talent around the world performed at the Grammys. Some of the acts included the Beach Boys with Foster the People and Maroon 5, Taylor Swift, David Guetta, Deadmau5, and more. The actual awards ranged from categories such as Best Choral Performance to Record of the Year, which is one of the biggest award handed out at the Grammys. If I were to tell you who won all of the awards than I would have to mention the name Adele way too many times, she took home Album of the Year AND Record of the Year.

This year was an interesting

year for the Grammys especially because of the rise of electronic music. Numerous electronic artists were nominated to win big awards this year, and many electronic artists took home big awards this year at the Grammys.

In addition to these awards, electronic artists put on some of the best shows at the Grammys. Deadmau5, an electronic artist, put on a great show. For those of you who do not know, Deadmau5, pronounced "dead mouse," always wears a big mouse head during his performances. Of course, he wore this head to the Grammys. Another electronic artist who performed was David Guetta. His music is more vocal-centered, whereas Deadmau5's music typically uses less vocals, and when it does use vocals, they are sampled from another artist. In contrast, David Guetta's vocals are heard in every single one of his songs. Another electronic artist who won big at the Grammys this year was electro-house artist Skrillex, who took home his first three Grammys



*Practical joker, Deadmau5* for Best Dance Recording, Best Dance/Electronic Album, and Best Non-Classical Remix.

Deadmau5 and Skrillex have always been friends, and friends like to play pranks on each other, but this time Deadmau5 might have taken his prank too far. Deadmau5 wore Skrillex's phone number on the black T-shirt he sported at the Grammys. The black T-shirt had Skrillex's phone number at the top and stated below it "u mad bro?." Indeed, Skrillex was mad, probably because he had to retire his phone number because of the number of calls he received.

## Peter Taylor's Top 10 Rock Bands and Their Key Tracks

1. Led Zeppelin- "When the Levee Breaks"
2. The Beatles- "While My Guitar Gently Weeps"
3. The Jimi Hendrix Experience- "Machine Gun"
4. The Jeff Beck Group- "I Ain't Superstitious"
5. Free- "Mr. Big"
6. Pink Floyd- "Time"
7. Doors- "Roadhouse Blues"
8. Rolling Stones- "Can't You Hear Me Knocking"
9. ACDC- "Let There Be Rock"
10. Allman Brothers Band- "Mountain Jam"- All 33 minutes of it





# ENTERTAINMENT

## Bonnaroo Festival 2012

By Werner Bradshaw

The lineup for the 11th Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival was released on February 14, 2012. This lineup consists of a wide variety of musical acts, ranging in genres of surf music and classical rock, to electronic acts and even soul and funk artists. Some of the well-known acts performing at Bonnaroo in 2012 are Radiohead, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Phish, The Beach Boys, and many more. There are, of course, plenty of must-see acts at this year's festival. Here is a list of the must-see acts at Bonnaroo. If you do not see any bands or artists on the list that you know of, I suggest you listen to some of these bands, broaden your horizons of music, and maybe even find a new favorite band.

**Radiohead**-Personal favorite albums: *OK Computer* (1997), *In Rainbows* (2007) - Radiohead is a London-based band that is really in their own genre of music. Most of their songs sound like no other music ever made. When listening to Radiohead, I suggest you listen to their songs more than one time because based on my experience, their songs take a while to really get into and appreciate.

**Foster the People**- Favorite album: *Torches* (2011) - Most of you probably know Foster the People for their more popular songs such as "Pumped up Kicks," but I strongly recommend listening to the whole *Torches* album if you really like their music. Foster the People is an indie pop band. Their album is extremely easy to listen to because it is so consistent and brings a similar sound in each song while still keeping the sound different enough to make the songs unique and interesting.

**The Roots**- Favorite Album: *Undun* (2011) - The Roots are a hip-hop band out of Philadelphia who model their sound off of early 1990s hip hop but with less jazz-infused sound and more soul-driven sound. The Roots are a no-brainer for anyone who appreciates real, old-school hip-hop.

**Big Gigantic**- Favorite Album: *A Place Behind the Moon* (2010) - When you first hear Big Gigantic, you first think of a sound similar to that of Pretty Lights, a sound composed of heavy beats and bass. The main difference to me is the sax used in Big Gigantic's music which adds a jazzy feel while still keeping the music electronic. I would place Big Gigantic under the genre of electro-house.

Along with these bands, there are many more wonderful musicians performing at Bonnaroo this year, so I suggest that you do not limit yourself to listening to just a few bands and branch out to bands that interest you. I have found out about some of my favorite bands by looking for the coolest name on the Bonnaroo Lineup and listening to them. There are so many shows that I could not include all of my favorite bands on this list, but this list shows the variety of music at Bonnaroo with something for everyone at this festival.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## *El Camino* Album Review

By Peter Taylor

### Album Details

Band Name: The Black Keys

Album Name: *El Camino*

Genre: Blues Rock, Garage Rock

Producer: Danger Mouse

Recorded in Easy Eye Studio

Release Date: December 6, 2011



The Black Keys have come a long way from being a duo banging out blues rock in their basement in Ohio to building their own studio right here in Nashville and winning 3 Grammy Awards for their hit 2010 album *Brothers*, as well as their hit single “Tighten Up.” Based around guitarist/singer Dan Auerbach and drummer Patrick Carney, the Black Keys began as a duo that jammed in their spare time, eventually recording an album, *The Big Come Up*, in Patrick Carney’s basement. Inspired by the Mississippi blues artists Junior Kimbrough, John Lee Hooker, and Robert Johnson, as well as rock and roll influences such as Led Zeppelin and ZZ Top, the Black Keys have forged a unique sound based more on overall groove and melody than individual guitar riffs or lyrics.

Their previous album *Brothers* was a huge success, yielding the Top 10 hit “Tighten Up,” and was an album that was more focused on their blues musical influences than their rock and roll influences. However, after such a fantastic album, could they match the success? (Hint: They could.) For *El Camino*, they focused more on their Rock and Roll influences, and with help from Danger Mouse, who frequently works with Cee Lo Green, they have created another album sure to be an award winner.

The album opens with “Lonely Boy,” the album’s lead single, where Dan (with help from a rumbling guitar and a group of female backup singers) sings about a love that keeps him waiting.

“Gold on the Ceiling” manages to hold a ZZ Top vibe while Dan sings about corporate greed, with a short but sweet guitar solo.

“Little Black Submarines,” my personal favorite, begins with an acoustic guitar and a tambourine, while Dan quietly sings about lost love, then escalates into an all out guitar jam, with an unnecessary choir of backup singers.

“Money Maker” features a talking guitar sound, and “Run Right Back” has a vicious slide guitar part. And what rock album doesn’t have a sick guitar solo? Check out “Stop Stop.”

The album’s theme seems to be about greed and taking advantage of a person, sometimes without noticing, sometimes not caring, and sometimes having no way to stop it. The album manages to force you to listen to it all the way through, and your attention is never lost at any point throughout. Danger Mouse’s production is the only real drawback of the album. He adds a lot of extra bells and whistles to the arrangements. While they generally add a new element to the song, they are sometimes unnecessary, and many of them take away from the Black Keys’ signature rawness, instead giving the record a more contemporary sound. A notable example of this is in the song “Nova Baby”, where a flute arrangement is added, which is somewhat distracting from the vocal melody.

### The Verdict:

*El Camino* rocks hard, just like the Black Keys’ previous albums, though it has a more contemporary sound than some of their earlier records. With an edgy rock and roll vibe, the songwriting is fantastic, and the musicianship by both members is on par with the likes of other great guitar/drum pairs. The record is solid, and so far it is the best album of the millennia that I’ve heard (well, maybe *Elephant* by the White Stripes). The only downfall is Danger Mouse’s occasional additions, which are often unnecessary.

Rating: 9/10

Key Track: “Little Black Submarines”; It sounds exactly like a Led Zeppelin song, and Patrick Carney does a great imitation of John Bonham.

Bonus Fact: The album cover is not actually an El Camino but a Plymouth Grand Duo, which the duo toured in during their early days.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Julius Caesar Review

By Daniel Bishop

The Nashville Shakespeare Festival put on the play, *Julius Caesar*, at Belmont's Troutt Theatre from January 12-29. This showing is the 24th consecutive year the festival has been in action. The festival started in 1988 with the Shakespearian production, *As You Like It*. The director of *Julius Caesar* is Beki Baker. Eddie George plays the lead role, Julius Caesar, but the understudy, David Chattham, played it on January 28th. The play is about Brutus, a loyal Roman Senator to Caesar, who kills Caesar on his way to the Senate, but Caesar's right-hand-man Mark Antony leads the people in a revolt against Brutus, leading to another war.

The actors include David



*Eddie George as Julius Caesar*

Chattham, who played the Caesar role, as a willing-confident man who does not take no for an answer. The role was well played and convincing. An old man plays Brutus, but he plays it very well and is a great addition to the play. This pair of actors look strange together because of the age difference between the two leading roles of Caesar and Brutus. Mark Antony is played very appropriately, and the actor is perfect for the uplifting role of turning the townspeople against Brutus.

The play is set in 44 BC, but Shakespeare wrote this play in 1599 AD. It starts out with Caesar parading through

Rome after gaining full power by winning the Civil War. His "trusted" Senators soon begin to plot against him. Cassius convinces Brutus of Caesar's evil, and Brutus becomes the leader of the group in the murder of Julius Caesar. Despite warnings from the "gods" and citizens alike, Caesar continues on his quest to be crowned as King on March 15, or the Ides of March. The band of murderers circle around Caesar at the Senate and kill him, but Mark Antony is spared. Brutus soon makes a funeral speech to angered citizens, but he turns them into "Brutus lovers" in this speech. Brutus allows Antony to make a lengthy speech (the one 8th Graders are soon to memorize), and he turns the "Brutus lovers" into "Brutus haters." A war follows this speech, and Brutus' wife, Portia, dies in the war. Later, Mark Antony and Octavius' army pursues Brutus' men. Cassius is killed by a fellow soldier, and Brutus dies by the sword of his slave, Lucius. I give this play an 8.5 out of 10 because the play was well-executed, but the sound and light display was distracting.

## He Knows Much About Geography!

### Will Blaufuss Wins the Geography Bee!

Congratulations to Will Blaufuss for winning the Annual MBA JS Geography Bee. Will placed first and David Gaw placed second out of eighteen contestants. As the winner of this year's competition, Will will be representing MBA at the State Bee on March 30th at TSU. The field



*Will Blaufuss and Mr. Russ*

of one-hundred contenders will be tough, but Will is a worthy opponent. His knowledge of geography was impressive when he correctly answered the following questions in the Championship Round:

- 1) Barrier islands help shelter a nature reserve on Apalachicola Bay, an arm of what gulf?
- 2) Name the Asian country at the eastern edge of the South China Sea that includes 7,100 islands.
- 3) Timbuktu, a center for caravan trade for almost a thousand years, is located north of the Niger River in which landlocked country?

Good luck, Will as you move on to the finals.

# SPORTS

## Broken Conscience, Broken Heart, Broken Man: Joe Paterno

By Cole Cross

Joe Paterno was fired as Penn State's head football coach on November 9, 2011. He was let go after a disturbing sexual abuse scandal that was highly publicized. His former defensive coach, Jerry Sandusky, was accused of abusing countless adolescent boys. An assistant of Paterno made him aware of an incident where Sandusky was seen in the shower with an adolescent boy. Paterno failed to report this incident, however, and it was reported to the Penn State campus police. His failure to report the occurrence was very surprising, considering that Paterno has always commended honor, honesty, and integrity. The police followed up on the case, but nothing more was discovered



until recently.

A victim of Sandusky's filed a report on him and the case was inspected. As time went by, more and more victims came out and started to accuse Sandusky. When asked about the accusations, Sandusky strongly denounced the stories of his accusers. After deep investigation, Sandusky was arrested, and his court case is in full swing. Paterno was not arrested,

however, and coached several more games before he was fired along with the athletic director.

Paterno predicted upon his firing that he would die within a week. Unfortunately, his prediction was fulfilled on January 21, 2012. Joe Paterno passed away from lung cancer. Many believe that a broken heart also contributed to his death. Even though Paterno had a less than graceful end to an incredible career, he is still one of the most respected men in the realm of sports, especially college football. He will always be remembered for his idea of winning with integrity. He finished his coaching career with a record of 406-106-3. RIP JoePa.

## 2012 National Signing Day

By George Harwell

February 1st is a special day for many high school seniors that plan to play football in college. High school seniors from all over the country sign a letter of intent to the university that they plan to play for. Here at MBA, Blake Bars signed a letter of intent to the University of Michigan, and Jamie Bradshaw signed to Cornell University. Congratulations to each of them on their success. The Vanderbilt Commodores had a very good recruiting class under 2nd year coach James Franklin. It was the best recruiting class in Vanderbilt football history. Their top recruit Brian Kimbrow, out of Memphis, is a 4 star recruit and

is the number 160 national player in the country according to Rivals.com. The Commodores ranked number 26 in the country in the team rankings for ESPN, and 29 for Rivals. The Tennessee Vols had a very good recruiting class under 3rd year coach Derek Dooley as well, signing 9 four star recruits and the best junior college transfer in the country in Cordarelle Patterson who is a receiver out of Hutchinson Kansas. Tennessee ranked number 17 in the country for the team rankings according to Rivals and number 21 for ESPN. Alabama ended up with the number 1 recruiting class in the country for both Rivals and ESPN. They signed 2 five star recruits, including the number 1 safety in the country, Landon Collins from Louisiana. He had a dramatic night in the Under Armour All American game, as he made his decision on national TV that he would go to Alabama, but his mom disagreed and wanted him to stay in state and go to LSU. He ended up signing with Alabama though. Florida State locked



*Landon Collins with his very disappointed mother.*

up the number 2 spot in the rankings by signing 3 five star recruits. Texas finished at number 3 while Florida, Georgia, Ohio State, Michigan, Miami, Notre Dame, and Clemson rounded out the top ten. The number 1 recruit in the country according to Rivals, Dorial Green-Beckham (a 6-5 receiver from Springfield Missouri) decided to stay in state and go to the Missouri Tigers. Number 2 D.J. Humphries (Offensive Tackle) went to Florida. Number 3 Mario Edwards (Defensive End) went to Florida State. Number 4 Shaq Thompson (Defensive back) went to Washington. Number 5 Jonathon Gray (Running Back) went to Texas. College Football signing day is one of the most exciting days in sports.



# SPORTS

## My Interview With R.A. Dickey

By Joe Noser

On Monday, January 30th, I had the privilege of meeting R.A. Dickey and interviewing him about his adventures in the past offseason, his expectations for the coming year, and even a couple of things about his MBA experience. R.A. Dickey is considered one of the best knuckleballers and philosophers in the game today, as well as one of the best authorities on literature. Here is what he had to say.

JN: "What made you want to climb Mount Kilimanjaro this past offseason?"

RAD: "Well, for the same reasons I stated in assembly: I had been inspired to climb the mountain as a seventh grader when I read Ernest Hemingway's short story 'The Snows of Kilimanjaro,' as well as to raise awareness for the charity 'Bombay Teen Challenge.' The issue of human trafficking in India is an issue that is very important to me, for I have two daughters who are about the same age as some of the girls and boys sold into slavery there. I felt climbing the mountain, especially since the Mets did not want me to at first, would be able to accomplish that."

JN: "Why did you write the book\*?"

RAD: "I wrote the book for a few reasons. First, the book was therapeutic for me to be able to get down all of my thoughts about what I'd been through and the adversity I'd had to face. Also,



*Joe Noser interviewing R.A. Dickey*

I felt the story could help other people get through their problems, and it was also just a pretty good story to be able to tell."

JN: "Switching gears a bit, what were you're favorite and least favorite parts about attending MBA?"

RAD: "My favorite parts about MBA were the people and the challenge that was brought from juggling academics and athletics. Although I did not emphasize academics as much as I wished I had while I was here, MBA instilled deep intellectual curiosity that I still hold onto today. Also, I felt the people cared about me here. I felt like people were legitimately concerned with how I was feeling. My least favorite part about MBA was demerit hall. Especially in junior school, the teachers gave out loads of demerits, so I spent lots of time in demerit hall on Saturdays. That wasn't much fun.

JN: "Who is your least favorite batter to face? What about least favorite/favorite place to pitch?"

RAD: "Carlos Delgado always had my number. No matter how hard I tried he always seemed like he knew what I was going to throw before I threw it. I became his teammate in the Cuban winter league and told him 'sorry pal, but every time I see you in

the batter's box I'm just going to plunk you in the butt.' I must have hit him five times after that. My favorite place to pitch has to be Citi Field, my home ballpark. You have to hit the ball double to get it out of there, so its any pitcher's dream. I have never really liked pitching in Philadelphia. The fans are a little rambunctious, and the right field porch is pretty shallow. I also had trouble pitching in Arlington. (home of the Texas Rangers, Dickey's first team) It was always hot, and I never really got a good feel for the ballpark. Those are probably my two least favorite places to play."

JN: "What was your coolest baseball experience?"

RAD: "Can I name a couple? Well, the first one would have to be winning the state championship here at MBA. That was an awesome experience. Going to the College World Series in Omaha with the University of Tennessee was pretty remarkable, as well as pitching in the 1996 Olympics. My favorite professional memory was my 1-hit complete-game shutout against the Phillies two years ago. That was probably my career best game."

Thanks so much to Mr. Dickey for doing the interview. I had a blast.



*Joe and R.A. after the interview.*

*\* For information on the release date of R.A. Dickey's book, please see page 30.*

# SPORTS

## Vandy Basketball 2012: An Up and Down Season\*

By David Gaw

If you have been following Vanderbilt basketball for the past five years, you have been waiting for a breakout season. The 2011-2012 team could be the break-out team. Ranked 6th in the AP preseason poll, this team had high expectations. Also with five seniors returning for their final year in black and gold, this team certainly has leadership. The season opened with a home date against an underrated Oregon team. John Jenkins and Jeff Taylor lead the team to a 78-64 victory. But if you know Vandy, you know they will find some way to blow it. Next game was against a quick Cleveland State team. It was either Vanderbilt not taking Cleveland State seriously or Vandy being nervous because of their high ranking, but regardless Vanderbilt got out-played and out-hustled in a 71-58 loss. Vandy responded to the loss with two good wins against Oregon State and North Carolina State in the Ticket City Classic to win that tournament before number 11 Xavier rolled into Memorial. The game versus the Musketeers was tight, neither team taking a clear advantage. When the game was still tied at the end of regulation, overtime ensued. The extra period was dominated by Xavier as they pulled away to a 62-50 win.



*Vanderbilt coach, Kevin Stallings*

The road did not get easier for the ‘Dores as they travelled to number four Louisville and the rowdy KFC Yum Center to do battle with the Cardinals. The ‘Dores came out fired up wanting to avenge the loss to Xavier, and took a nine-point lead into the second half. Louisville came back though and sent the game into overtime. With 1.4 seconds left in overtime, Peyton Siva’s lay up gave the Cardinals a two-point lead, and Vandy was not able to answer. The two overtime heartbreakers in a row took its toll on the ‘Dores, but with all the senior leadership you would think everything would be all right, but you would be wrong. After a win at Davidson, the ‘Dores returned home to take on a mediocre Indiana State team. The Sycamores shut John Jenkins down to 11 points and ran their slow, methodical offense effectively. The ‘Dores were taken out of their style of play by Indiana State which resulted in a 61-55 loss. Coach Stallings must have done something different in practice the next week because the ‘Dores went on an eight-game winning streak after the Indiana State game which included an impressive win at Marquette. During this streak, 6 foot 11 inch center Festus Ezeli return to action coming off a knee injury. Even though he wasn’t 100 percent, his presence helped the ‘Dores by opening up shots for the guards.

Kentucky was the clear favorite to win the SEC heading into SEC play, but many teams like Florida, Vandy, and Mississippi State had to shoot it out during the season to get the number 2

spot. On January 21, Mississippi State traveled to Nashville to face the ‘Dores. This was one of those nail biters that Vandy is accustomed to playing. The game went into overtime, and Mississippi State barely won, 78-77. The ‘Dores responded well though with an 18-point beat down of rival Tennessee. The ‘Dores went 2 and 2 in the next two weeks before the game of the season. The game versus Kentucky had huge implications for both squads. If Kentucky wanted a number one seed in the NCAA tournament, they had to win, and Vandy couldn’t afford another loss. Also the excitement was doubled when ESPN College Gameday decided to choose this game as the Game of the Week. Personally, I have never felt a more raucous atmosphere in sports before the game. UK dominated the first half, taking a 13-point lead into half, but resilient Vandy fought back and took the lead with seven minutes to go in the game. The game was neck-and-neck until the end, but Kentucky was able to pull out the win 69-63. The ‘Dores then responded nicely with a 3 game winning streak before traveling to Rupp Area in Lexington. The ‘Dores have not won there in a while, and this year didn’t change that. After replying with a big win over number 13 Florida, the ‘Dores traveled to Knoxville where they faced a hungry UT Vols team. The ‘Dores never really got in a flow on offense which resulted in a 68-61 loss.

The ‘Dores enter the SEC tournament as the three seed. A good performance in the SEC tourney will boost their seed in the NCAA tournament. According to all brackologists, the ‘Dores are firmly in the NCAA tourney, and they hope to advance past the first round for the first time in three years. The ‘Dores had an up and down regular season but hope to improve in the post season.

*\* As of the end of the regular season*



# SPORTS

## NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Preview

By Cole Campbell

It's the most wonderful time of the year: March Madness, and this year's tournament promises to be as good as any. As always, there are favorites and potential Cinderella teams all looking to be the next champion of college basketball. However, any team can be beaten on any given day, so even the top programs will have to be on their game. This year there are about five power conferences, but there are numerous other mid-major teams that have potential to go far.



It's definitely an off-year for the Atlantic Coast Conference. Besides Duke and North Carolina, there are not many serious contenders. However, don't count out teams like Florida State and Virginia, because they can play with the best of them. On the flip side, top seeds like Duke and North Carolina are not immune to upsets and can be surprised early. Overall, anything is possible for this conference.



The Big East has a tradition of sending many teams to March Madness, and this year is no exception. Their best team, Syracuse, is shaping up to be a real championship contender, and others like Marquette and Georgetown are not far behind. In addition, teams like Louisville and Notre Dame are looking to make a run in the tournament as well. Only time will tell how all these teams will finish.



The Big Ten also has a number of teams not to be messed with. The Michigan State Spartans and the Ohio State Buckeyes lead the conference, and both are hungry to make a statement in the NCAA Tournament. Other teams like Michigan and Indiana should not be taken lightly, either. However, these teams know what it feels like to lose to a less talented team, and it could happen again.



The Big 12 is full of good teams this year. Kansas is becoming

a top team in the nation, and Baylor and Missouri are not far behind them. The Iowa State Cyclones are also in the mix this year and might cause some trouble for the teams facing them. These teams are certainly capable of doing some damage in the tournament this year.



Obviously, Kentucky is one of the favorites to go for the title this year, but there are other teams in the conference looking to make their mark as well. Florida and Vanderbilt have shown promise all year, and they just might make a run in March Madness. Alabama, too, has progressed over the season and is shaping into a fine basketball squad. All these teams have the potential to go deep into the tournament this year.

### Mid-Majors:

This is an especially good year for mid-major teams, colleges that do not belong to one of the power conferences. Among them are Murray State, Wichita State, San Diego State, and Creighton. These teams may be underestimated at times because of their schedules or conferences, but any one of them is capable of taking down a top team.

After all, it's March Madness, and anything can happen.

# SPORTS



## Top 5 Super Bowl Ads for 2012

By Jack Litchfield

Apart from the food and the always-exciting game, brand new commercials entertain football fans during every Super Bowl. All of us enjoy a break from the same old boring commercials that normally

play during NFL games and watch funny commercials advertising products like Dorito's and M&M's. With 30-second commercials costing as much as four million dollars, the stakes were high this year. According to a poll conducted by [www.superbowl-commercials.com](http://www.superbowl-commercials.com), here are the top 5 commercials from the 2012 Super Bowl.

5. "A Dream Car. For Real Life" (Kia)- Although it wasn't funnier than the Kia commercial with the hamsters, this ad was one of the better car commercials. The commercial goes inside the head of a dreaming man and shows him racing around a track in a Kia Optima with Motley Crue playing in the background. This was a very entertaining commercial.

4. "2012" (Chevy) - This commercial depicts the world after a supposed apocalypse in which only the people driving the 2012 Chevy Silverado survived. The ad also insults competitor truck company Ford when one of the men's friends who was driving a Ford supposedly did not survive. Because people are already beginning to stress the possible apocalypse predicted by the Mayans, this was a very appropriate commercial for the time.

3. "Transactions" (Acura) - Jerry Seinfeld tries to convince the man number one in line to receive the new Acura NSX to give him the car in this hilarious commercial. Despite offering him everything from a new boat to "access to [his] personal network of Manhattan ziplines," he is outbid by Jay Leno with a flying squirrel suit at the last second. I believed that this was the funniest commercial of the year.

2. "Matthew's Day Off" (Honda) - This ad features actor Matthew Broderick taking a "day off" in his Honda CRV and is full of references to his classic movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Fans of this movie from the 80's appreciated the commercial, but were disappointed to find out that it was a car advertisement rather than a sequel.

1. "It's Halftime in America" (Chrysler) - This inspirational ad comparing halftime of the Super Bowl to a break in our country's recession took the top spot on the list. Chrysler took a more serious approach to this commercial rather than the traditional commercials produced to be funny. Narrated by the great Clint Eastwood, the speech in this commercial had a great message and deserved to be number one.

Honorable Mention: "The Dog Strikes Back" (Volkswagon) and "Vampires" (Audi)

Be sure to visit the website and check out the rest of the top 10!



# SPORTS

## “Linsanity!”

By Jack Litchfield

New York Knicks point guard Jeremy Lin has amazed the basketball world in the past several weeks. Lin's journey to this point in his career is even more incredible than his spectacular performances on the court. Lin was born in Los Angeles, California, on August 23, 1988 to two Taiwanese immigrants. Although he did not receive any offers for a collegiate athletic scholarship coming out of high school, his 4.2 grade point average got him into Harvard. Despite setting numerous Ivy League records and being named to the All-Ivy League First Team his junior and senior year, Lin was not drafted after graduating Harvard with a degree in economics. After working out with several different teams, Lin was offered a spot on the roster of his hometown Golden State Warriors. He was the first American of Taiwanese descent to play in the NBA. Unfortunately, Lin was waived after his rookie season. After being picked up by



*Jeremy Lin*

the Houston Rockets and waived shortly after, Lin joined the Knicks roster on December 27. By the end of January, it looked as if Jeremy Lin's basketball career may have been over.

Lin got a chance to play in the fourth quarter of the Knicks game on February 3 and shocked the New Jersey Nets in their game the next day when he scored 25 points and had 7 assists. “Linsanity” had begun. On February 10, Lin scored 38 points along with 7 assists to lead his team to a win over Kobe Bryant and the Lakers in Madison Square Garden. Despite being named the Eastern Conference Player of the Week, not everyone was yet convinced that Lin was the real

deal. However, Lin made a three with less than a second left to beat the Raptors in Toronto on February 14 that earned him the respect of NBA legends such as Magic Johnson. Lin later had a career high 14 assists in

addition to 28 points against the Dallas Mavericks on February 19. Despite a high number of turnovers, the recent play of Jeremy Lin has pushed the Knicks over .500 on the season and has revitalized the fans. Jersey sales for Lin have skyrocketed, and the New York Knicks have become one of the top teams in the league again. With the help of Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire, Lin may lead the Knicks deep into the postseason. Lin has also made the NBA popular



again in China, where many citizens forgot about the league when Yao Ming retired. Lin's sudden rise in popularity in the sports world has even drawn him comparisons to Tim Tebow! Jeremy Lin has quickly become an NBA superstar.



# SPORTS

## Preds Make Playoff Push

By Carter Lovvorn

The Nashville Predators have had one of their best seasons in franchise history this year. After 65 games, the team sits 5th in the Western Conference and 3rd in their Central Division. The top eight teams in the conference make the playoffs, putting the Preds in a spot at the moment. However, this spot is not locked up, and the team will have to continue winning games to solidify that playoff bid. The Predators record is 38-20-7 (Wins-Losses-Overtime/Shootout Losses), giving them 83 points (ten more points than they had last year at this time). If the playoffs started today, the Predators would be playing their division rival St. Louis Blues (89 points). The Blues have a similar hard-nosed approach to the game that would lead to a very interesting matchup. The Predators have the season series tilted heavily in their favor, with a 4-0-1 record against the Blues this year. Other possible teams that the Preds may play include the Detroit Red Wings, the Phoenix Coyotes, the Chicago Blackhawks, and the San Jose Sharks. The Predators are trying to go further into the playoffs than last year's second round exit. The Preds are trying to make this year a year to remember.

The Predators are



*Hal Gill and Andre Kostitsyn*

approaching the end of the season a bit differently from years past, which is a sign that they have a special group that has a chance to win the Stanley Cup. Differences include their aggressiveness in the trade department. The Preds have picked up four different players to try to help fill in gaps in the lineup. The team first acquired Brandon Yip from the Colorado Avalanche. Yip is a hard-working forward that the Preds will count on in the playoffs because of his solid work ethic. Next, the Preds acquired Hal Gill from the Montreal Canadiens. Gill is 6'7", 241 pounds, making him one of the strongest defensemen in the league.

He is a very effective penalty killer, which is where the Preds will need him the most. Another addition from Montreal is Andre Kostitsyn, brother of current Pred Sergei Kostitsyn. Andre is a little bit bigger than his

brother Sergei but brings a similar, offensive approach to the game. The Predators believe that Andre Kostitsyn will bring more scoring to the team heading into the playoffs. Finally, the Predators added Paul Gaustad from the Buffalo Sabres. Like Yip, the Predators think Gaustad will be a big acquisition for the playoffs. He is 6'5", 212 pounds, giving the team another big body. Gaustad is also good at winning faceoffs, a vital asset in the playoffs. These players should fill in most of the gaps in the Predators lineup, making them an overall sound team. Also, the players should add depth, which is crucial in the grueling playoffs.

The Predators success is bringing a lot of buzz to Nashville. The Predators home attendance average for this year is 97%, much greater than in years past (2010-11: 94%, 2009-10: 88%). Clearly, more people are interested in the team and the sport. As the team heads into the playoffs, this attendance success has helped the Preds on home ice and should help them during the playoffs.



*Predators vs. Blues*



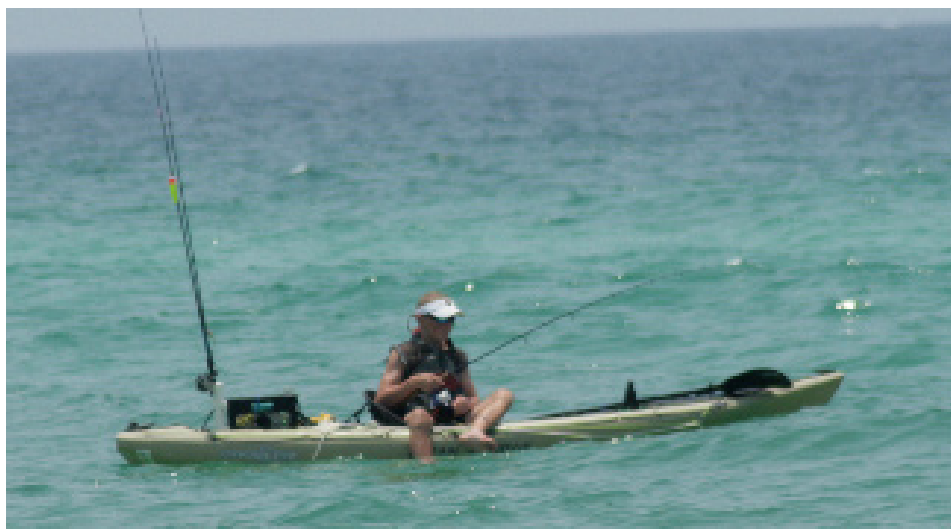
# SPORTS

## The Great Outdoors: Kayak Fishing

By Mark Floyd

Fishing from a kayak is an economical and exciting way to fish. Kayak fishing gives one another perspective on fishing and great exercise as well. Watching a bass jump at eye level or a mackerel rocket out of the water is an incredible experience from a kayak.

Choosing a fishing kayak can be a time consuming task, but here are some tips. Kayaks range from \$100 to over \$3000. Depending on your budget, you will have to narrow your search. The general idea with kayaks is the longer and thinner, the faster, but less stable. Shorter and wider kayaks are more stable, but cumbersome. The general recommendation is to start small, and then work up to a bigger kayak. Another very important thing to consider is where you will be fishing. If you fish in warm water, then you will probably want a kayak you can sit on, while if you fish cold water, a sit-in kayak might be better. A good paddle is also very important to have on a kayak, because it is much easier to use a very light paddle all day. Generally, the wider the kayak, the longer the paddle. Next, safety



*Reporter, Mark Floyd, kayak fishing*

will have to be considered.

A good life vest is the most important piece of equipment to take. When going offshore at the beach, it is a good idea to take an emergency locator beacon (like SPOT or EPIRB), and there is always safety in numbers. Finding someone to kayak fish with is a huge safety net. Now on to finding somewhere to launch the kayak.

This situation is where the kayak really shines. Because of its portability, kayaks can be launched from a variety of areas that other boats could not even consider going.

Kayak fishing is a great adventure which anyone can afford and enjoy. Kayak fishing the ocean can be a real blast. Chasing schools of mackerel and poor man's tarpon up and down the beach can be a real rush. The true

benefit of fishing from a kayak is that it is nearly maintenance free. An easy wash down after using it is really all that is needed to keep it in good condition. Kayaks also have the advantage of stealth. Sneaking up on redfish is much easier in a kayak, because it is so quiet. The only noise from a kayak is the occasional splash of the paddle, and splashing is a natural sound (unlike the noise of a motor on a boat). So whether you fish inshore or offshore, lake or river, a kayak can be an effective fishing machine.



*A school of mackerel*

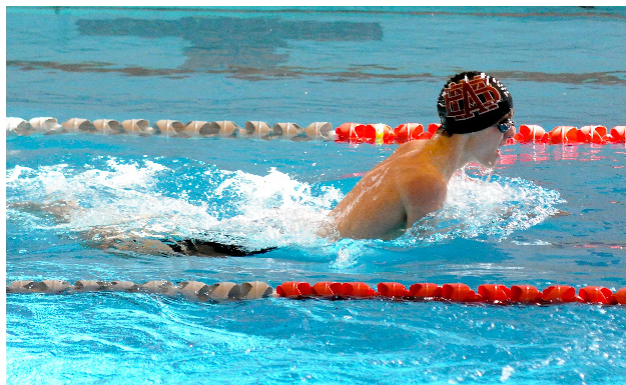
# SWIMMING

## Microbe Swim Team Wins Championship!

By Hunter Hamilton

On Saturday January 21, the Microbe Swim Team went to the Baylor School in Chattanooga for the Southeastern Middle School Swimming Championship. The Microbes knew that they would face tough competition from every team. The meet started at 9:30 with the 200 Yard Medley Relay consisting of Hudson Dobbs, Hunter Hamilton, Matt Robbins, and Winston Hewett. The relay finished second to Harding Academy with a time of 1:54.7. In the next event, the 200 Yard Freestyle, Robbins finished first, followed by Jordan Rosdeutscher in eleventh, and Ryan Carpenter in sixteenth place with times of 1:59, 2:18, and 2:27. In the 200 Yard IM, Dobbs snatched

fourth with a time of 2:21. Charlie Bailey and Jackson Maradik finished nineteenth and twentieth respectively. Hewett, Call Bainbridge, Hunter Hamilton, and Alvin Zhang placed first, sixth, thirteenth, and sixteenth in the prelims of the 50 Yard Freestyle with solid times of 24.57, 26.34, 28.23, and 28.71. Joe Noser, Mack Smithing, Turner Johnson, Ben Gauldin, Yavin Alwis, and Rishi Mallipeddi all dropped time in this event, too. Then, Sam Smith represented the Microbes in the diving portion of the meet. Sam captured third, giving the Big Red 16 points. After diving, Robbins took sixth in 100 Yard



*Hunter Hamilton*

Butterfly with a time of 1:02.71. In the 100 Yard Freestyle, Hewett placed first, followed by Bainbridge and Rosdeutscher in sixth and seventh finishing at 1:00.87 and 1:01. Joe Noser, Turner Johnson, Rishi Mallipeddi, Ben Gauldin, and Yavin Alwis also competed in the 100 Freestyle and earned their best times. Then in the 500 Freestyle, one of the most grueling events in



*2011 HVAC Swimming Champions!!!!*



# SWIMMING

the meet, Carpenter took twelfth, Drew Powell finished eighteenth, Jake Evans captured twentieth, and Charlie Bailey grabbed twenty-third. In the 200 Yard Freestyle Relay of Bailey, Bainbridge, Hewett, and Will Blaufuss, the Big Red took sixth with a time of 1:51. Dobbs finished fourth in the 1:03.37, followed by Maradik in nineteenth, Evans in twenty-first, and Zhang in twenty-fourth. In the 100 Yard Breaststroke, Hamilton took ninth with a 1:16.75, Blaufuss grabbed eleventh with a 1:18.25, and Powell captured fourteenth with a 1:20.77. In the final event of the prelims, the Microbes took fifth in the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay. The team of Bainbridge, Rosdeutscher, Hamilton, and Maradik finished with a strong time of 4:10.

After a tasty lunch at Applebees, the swimmers were ready to start the finals. Before beginning, Coach Dobbs informed the team that they were neck-and-neck with the McCallie Blue Tornados. This statement drove the team to try even harder in the finals than they did in the prelims. The Microbes started very strong, with the 400 Yard Medley Relay Team of Dobbs, Hamilton, Hewett, and Robbins dropping over 3 seconds and placing first with a time of 1:51, just a second off the meet record! This win greatly encouraged the team. Then in the 200 Yard Freestyle, Robbins clenched first with a 1:57.47, followed by Rosdeutscher and Carpenter in tenth and fifteenth. Dobbs took fourth in the 200 Yard IM, finishing with a 2:17.16. Then



*The winners of the 200 meter medley: Hudson Dobbs, Winston Hewett, Matthew Robbins, and Hunter Hamilton*

in the 50 Yard Freestyle, Hewett took second, Bainbridge took sixth, Hamilton grabbed fourteenth, and Zhang took sixteenth. Matt Robbins then took eighth in the 100 Yard Butterfly with a 1:05.13. In the 100 Yard Freestyle, Hewett clenched first with an unbelievable time of 54.58, followed by Bainbridge in fourth, and Rosdeutscher in eighth. Then in the 200 Yard Freestyle Relay, Robbins, Dobbs, Bainbridge, and Hewett shocked the spectators and took first, finishing with a 1:40.71 time! Dobbs then took third in the 100 Yard Backstroke with a time of 1:01.83. In the 100 Yard Breaststroke Final, Hamilton took ninth with a 1:15.26, Blaufuss grabbed tenth with a 1:16.95, and Powell snagged fourteenth with a 1:18.39. Just before the final event, the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay, Rishi Mallipeddi informed Coach Dobbs that the relay would have to finish in fifth place or better for us to win the

meet. The relay team of Maradik, Rosdeutscher, Bainbridge, and Blaufuss took fourth (Rosdeutscher finally broke a minute)!

Immediately after the 400 Freestyle Relay, the Microbes eagerly awaited the results. When the announcer revealed that the Big Red had won, the Microbes went berserk. After the meet, Coach Dobbs said, "[I]n seven years of being part of middle school and high school coaching, this will go down as one of my top three best experiences." The Microbe Swim Team finished first in the Southeastern Championship for the first time under Coach Dobbs. Congratulations to the Microbe Swimmers and coaches on their astounding accomplishments this season. Thanks also to Coach Hutton for helping out the team.

*Photos Courtesy of  
Mrs. Angela Robbins and  
Dr. Kevin Hamilton*

# MICROBE

## 7th Grade Basketball

By Will Peters

The 7th grade basketball team had a very successful, yet up-and-down season. The Microbes played many intense games, winning some and losing others.

The team started the season strong with preseason scrimmages and a well-fought battle that led to a win against St. Henry School. Next came the daunting task of the Overbrook Classic. Entering the tournament, the 7th graders knew that they might not win a single game but got two well-earned victories over worthy teams in the first two rounds. Upon entering the third round, the Microbes took a tough loss to the Ensworth School's 8th grade team. After the Overbrook Classic, the team headed down to Smyrna to capture two more victories before entering Christmas break.

The first game of the new year was Brentwood Academy, it was obvious that this game was the team's first after a long hiatus due to poorly executed plays and defense in the fourth quarter. As a result of the Microbes' lack of precision and teamwork when it counted, the team finished the contest against BA in a rough home loss. The Microbes then played two more tight games against FRA and David Lipscomb. Because of a couple turnovers and some mistakes made down the stretch, the team lost both games by a small margin. The Microbes recovered

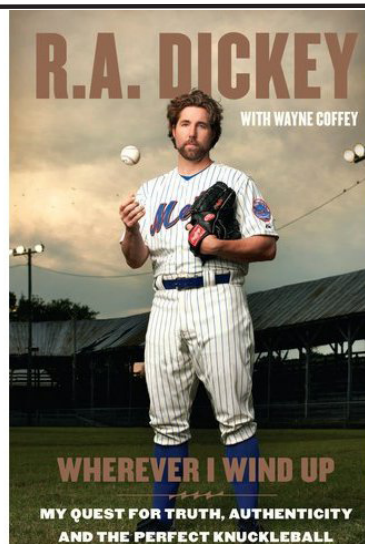


*The 2011-2012 Seventh-Grade Basketball Team*

nicely with rather easy wins over BGA, Ensworth (7th) and CPA. Nearing the end of the season, the 7th graders encountered BA in another hard fought battle. Through the first half the Microbes appeared to be in command of the game, but the team dug itself into a 13-point hole by the end of the third quarter. However, with some late game heroics from Ty Chandler and Jack Hornsby, the team cut the deficit down to two points but couldn't close the deal and ended up losing in another close contest. The

team then finished the season with three more strong victories.

From Michael Lee's amazing game-winning shot to Tom Peter's unbelievable reverse layup, from Cal Rieke's floaters to Jack Hornsby's 4-point play, the team had a fantastic and memorable season. Also, the Microbes had great coaching from Coaches Todd Moran and David Richardson, a big part of the team's success. All in all, the 7th grade basketball team had a pretty solid season.



***Wherever I Wind Up: My Quest for Truth, Authenticity, and the Perfect Knuckleball* by R.A. Dickey is scheduled for release on March 15, 2012.**



# BASKETBALL

## 8th Grade Basketball

By Carter Lovvorn

The 8th grade basketball team has completed another successful season under Coaches Sean Jackson, Mike Davidson, and Joe Davis. The team had a diverse skill-sets, giving every player a different role. The chemistry of the team grew greatly as the season progressed, leading to better performances at end the year. The Big Red knocked off teams including conference rivals Christ Presbyterian Academy, Battle Ground Academy, and David Lipscomb.

After weeks of practice, scrimmages, and hard work, MBA began the season beating St. Henry's in dominating fashion. Next, the Big Red went across the street to the Overbrook Classic, consisting of most of the HVAC teams and more. The team made it through the first round, defeating St. Edwards with solid play on both ends. The Big Red came out victorious over St. Matthews as well. The first real challenge of the year came next: Brentwood Academy. The BA eagles took over early, leaving the Big Red in the dust trying to catch up for the rest of the game. Although the Big Red were knocked out of the tournament, they found positives in the fact that they won two games and had a strong second



*Coach Jackson calls in the team for a strategy session.*

half performance against BA. Next, MBA went to Rockvale and Oakland, playing games on consecutive days, going 1-1 with two good showings. BA was the next challenge for the Big Red. The team had a great first half, but came up short in the end, losing by 12 points. The Microbes were prepared for their next match-up against Lipscomb. They handled Lipscomb and came out on top for their first conference win of the season. Following this game, the Big Red had three consecutive close losses to conference teams at home (Ensworth, Franklin Road Academy, and Christ Presbyterian Academy). The team then edged out a scrappy win over Battle Ground Academy to end the skid. The team closed the season with another dominating performance over BGA and an overtime victory against CPA. The Microbes were on a high note heading into the HVAC Tournament. After a week of practice, the Big Red were ready

for CPA in the tournament. At the end of the first half, the Big Red were winning by 13 points. CPA slowly chipped away at the lead in the second half. CPA pulled out the victory ending the season in a disappointing way for the Big Red.

The team had a lot of high points in the season, including some big wins. The final season record for the team was 9-11. The team fought hard and was led by captains Will Eskew, Parker Bryan, and Gray Adelman. Other key players included the duo of Jack King and Benjamin Graves, and Jordan Wilson as a key shooter for the Big Red. The Microbes have great promise for their upcoming years in high school, as chemistry and teamwork will grow.



# WRESTLING

## Adrenaline Rocks!!!!

By Riley Steanson

The Microbe wrestling season of 2011-2012 has come and gone, but the team has shared many great memories together. Team isn't the right word; it should be "band of brothers." All those boys on the team came together not knowing each other but left as brothers.

The team had its first wrestle-offs on October 18, 2011, to decide who would be wrestling at the FRA and the BGA matches. The starting wrestlers were: empty at 75 lbs, John Whitaker at 82 lbs, Jacob Herndon at 88 lbs, Jed Griffin at 95 lbs, Joe McMahan at 100 lbs, Charles West at 107 lbs, Mark Floyd at 112 lbs, Harold Turks at 120 lbs, Taylor Asher at 127 lbs, Stephen Richey at 135 lbs, Darius Southwell at 145 lbs, Wyeth Patton at 160 lbs, Ryan Kosson at 175 lbs, and John Kelly at 225 lbs/ heavyweight.

These wrestlers would soon come to be undefeated in the HVAC and would win the HVAC tournament, which would garner a medal in every weight class except 100 lbs. Joe placed fourth there. The team came out of the BGA main gym with a close win. The gap between them and

the second place team, BA, was less than twenty points.

The HVAC part of the season wrapped up and went on into the part of the season where the team wrestled teams from who knows where. It started that leg of the season with a close victory over West Wilson. The team then took a nice break called winter break. Surprisingly, only one person gained more than three pounds during the break.

The next leg of the other team season was not jump-out-of-my-seat crazy nor was it I'm going to fall asleep quiet. The team came back January third and started practice again. The next big event happened when they traveled three hours to go to McCallie. The wrestlers had a pretty tough time getting up at three in the morning to get on the bus to go down there, except Riley who went down the night before. The team

wrestled to sixth place out of nine. All the good teams were placed in our bracket. (Curse you McCallie!)

The team then finished the season strong at the final tournament of the season, the Grand Championships. The team arrived to find that only four teams of the expected sixteen showed up to the tournament. Those teams were MBA, Nashville Catholic, Murfreesboro Elite, and one other team. MBA placed fourth because all these teams were more than likely undefeated.

The season ended with the annual Microbe wrestling banquet. Several awards were handed out including MVP, Coaches Award, Most Improved and a few others. The entire team got medals for the championships. Coach Shone is still deciding whether or not to get team jackets.



2011-2012 HVAC Wrestling Champs!!!



# SOCCER

## Microbe A Soccer Wins HVAC for the 8th Time!

By Daniel Bishop

As the Big Red headed into the final week of the season as the league leader with 8 wins and 1 tie, they had the privilege of having a first round bye. The team was able to work on last minute strategies in the two days of practice. On the following Wednesday, the team headed into the semi-finals facing USN, whom the Big Red had tied earlier in the season. Both teams came out ready for a fight, and the score was even, 0-0, all of the first half. The Big Red soon pulled ahead with an outstanding shot from

outside the box to give them the lead. As the minutes ticked down, the Big Red was controlling the possession, but when USN got on our half the back four, led by Christian Williams and William Porter, soon shut down the opponents. The game ended with a 1-0 win for the Big Red. The Big Red continued on their win streak to play CPA the next day. The Big Red had beaten CPA earlier in the season 2-1. Both teams came out to win and formulated a strategy to fit the opposing force. The Big Red, instead of playing a 4-2-2, played a 4-5-1 to control the midfield and stop CPA's dominating player. As the game went on, neither team had scored, but, after the half, the teams came out pumped up. CPA's defender scored an own goal to give the Big Red the lead 1-0. The Big Red team dominated the second half until the last minutes when CPA's attacker slipped through the defense and scored, forcing overtime. The teams deadlocked in the two five-minute halves of OT

and even the five-minute Golden Goal session. The two teams went to penalty kicks to settle the game. The selected kickers for MBA in kicking order were Chase Meluch, Will Emerson, Daniel Bishop, Will Warren, and Christian Williams. Chase placed his ball into the back of the right net and gave MBA the lead 1-0. The Big Red's amazing goalie, Cole Cross, saved CPA's first kick. Will Emerson placed his PK into the back of the net again on the right side. CPA's second kicker soon put an unstoppable ball into the lower corner to make the PK score 2-1. Daniel Bishop was MBA's third taker, and he scored. The next CPA kicker scored, but the next CPA kicker after him was blocked by Cole. Christian Williams took the game-winning kick for MBA and put it into the back of the net to win the game. The Big Red took another championship for the 8th year in the row! The championship was definitely the high point of the season, but the whole team

would agree that the tie against USN at the second game was low point of the season. The team would not have had this wonderful season without the help of the coaching staff, which included the following individuals: Coach Giles Cheevers, Coach Dick Klausner, and Coach Cole Epstein. These coaches turned the team into champions. Thank you, Coaches!



*Eight-Time HVAC Soccer Champions!!!!*



# THE NICHOLAS

## Microbe Lacrosse Begins Season

Nothing heralds spring like the Nicholas Caroland Lacrosse Jamboree held every March in memory of MBA student, Nicholas Caroland. MBA Microbe lacrosse teams open their season every year with the weekend competition. Here are some pictures of this year's event. The full lacrosse season will be covered in our May edition of *Top of the Hill*.



*John Whitaker*



*Thomas Neff*



*Caleb Jernigan*



*Andrew Hudson*



*Jack Reineke and Hayes Alley*



*7th grade goalie, Joe Waller*



# CAROLAND JAMBOREE



*Goalie, Brinton Hoover*



*Taylor Asher*



*Werner Bradshaw and John Kelly*



*Alec Vest*



*Max Turner*



*Adam Young*

*Photos Courtesy of Mr. Bob Hoover*



# THE BACK PAGE



## Top of the Hill Staff

Jack Litchfield and Carter Lovvorn.....	Editors-in-Chief
Alvin Zhang.....	Features Editor
Cole Campbell and Joe Noser.....	Sports Editors
Benton Dodd.....	Entertainment Editor
Cole Cross, Hudson Coombs, K.P. Frazier.....	Photographers
Ben Gauldin and Will Norton.....	Cartoonists
Mr. Boysen and Mrs. Roberts.....	Sponsors